

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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SUBJECT: CIVAIR: US-UK AVIATION RELATIONS -
PACIFIC SERVICES

REF: STATE 147719

TEXT OF DEPARTMENT'S NOTE, DATED JULY 6, IN RESPONSE TO
UK EMBASSY NOTE OF JUNE 15 (TRANSMITTED REFTEL) FOLLOWS:

QUOTE THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE REFERS THE BRITISH EMBASSY
TO THE CONSULTATIONS HELD IN LONDON BETWEEN THE DELEGA-
TIONS OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM FROM
JUNE 1 TO 4, 1976, CONCERNING INTER ALIA THE PATTERN OF
PAN AMERICAN WORLD AIRWAYS' SERVICES AT HONG KONG THROUGH
TOKYO. THE DEPARTMENT REITERATES THE POSITION ADVANCED
BY THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION THAT CHANGES OF GAUGE IN
TOKYO OR AT ANY OTHER THIRD COUNTRY POINT ARE NOT IN-
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CONSISTENT WITH THE UNITED STATES-UNITED KINGDOM AIR

SERVICES AGREEMENT AND WITH PAST PRACTICE. SIMILARLY, THE DEPARTMENT REITERATES THE POSITION THAT LAYOVERS OF AIRCRAFT FOR REASONS OF OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE AGREEMENT. THE DEPARTMENT HAS REVIEWED THE PAN AMERICAN LAYOVER AND CHANGE OF GAUGE AT TOKYO IN LIGHT OF THESE POSITIONS AND THE DISCUSSIONS OF

THE TWO DELEGATIONS IN LONDON. IT AGREES THAT THE LAYOVER PERIOD AT TOKYO MAY BE QUESTIONABLE. ACCORDINGLY, PAN AMERICAN WILL ADJUST THE SERVICES IN QUESTION AT TOKYO AT THE END OF THE SUMMER SEASON IN A MANNER WHICH WILL REDUCE THE LAYOVER TO A NORMAL CONNECTION TIME PERIOD AND WHICH WILL AVOID THE CONFLICT WITH PAN AMERICAN'S ROUND-THE-WORLD FLIGHT.

QUOTE THE DEPARTMENT ALSO REFERS TO THAT PORTION OF THE EMBASSY'S NOTE DATED JUNE 15, 1976, CONCERNING THE CAPACITY OFFERED BY PAN AMERICAN BETWEEN HONG KONG AND SYDNEY. WHILE THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT DISPUTE THE FACT THAT SUBSTANTIAL PORTIONS OF THE TRAFFIC CARRIED BY PAN AMERICAN ON THIS ROUTE SEGMENT IN 1975 WAS FIFTH FREEDOM TRAFFIC, THE EXPERIENCE DURING THAT YEAR MAY NOT BE APPLICABLE NOW THAT THE AIRLINE HAS REDUCED ITS FREQUENCIES BY HALF IN APRIL 1976. IT WOULD, THEREFORE, BE IN KEEPING WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE BERMUDA AGREEMENT THAT THE OPERATIONS OF PAN AMERICAN ON THIS ROUTE SEGMENT BE REVIEWED, IF THE U.K. AUTHORITIES WISH, AFTER A REASONABLE PERIOD OF EXPERIENCE AT CURRENT FREQUENCY LEVELS, IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER FURTHER ADJUSTMENTS ARE NECESSARY. HOWEVER, EVEN IF THIS EXPERIENCE DEMONSTRATES THAT A HIGH PROPORTION OF FIFTH FREEDOM TRAFFIC CONTINUES TO BE CARRIED, THE UNITED STATES CANNOT ACCEPT THE VIEW THAT THE AIRLINE SHOULD THEREFORE CEASE ALL OPERATIONS ON THIS ROUTE SEGMENT IN ORDER TO BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE AGREEMENT. SUCH ACTION WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF DEPRIVING THE UNITED STATES OF BENEFITS PROVIDED FOR IN THE AGREEMENT SINCE IT WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO A UNILATERAL WITHDRAWAL BY THE U.K. OF THE TRAFFIC RIGHTS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND SYDNEY UNDER U.S. ROUTE 7. THE U.S. WOULD, THEREFORE, HAVE TO REGARD SUCH ACTION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BY THE U.K. AS A VIOLATION OF THE AGREEMENT.

QUOTE THE UNITED STATES WILL WISH TO DISCUSS THE FOREGOING MATTER AND OTHER POINTS RAISED BY THE EMBASSY'S NOTE DURING THE CONSULTATIONS TO BE HELD BEGINNING JULY 12. END QUOTE.

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